

SPO

No heir e'er drove to fine a coach;
The *spokes*, we are by Ovid told,
Were silver, and the axle gold.
SPOKE. The preterite of *spoke*.
They *spoke* best in the glory of their conquest.
SPOKEN. Participle passive of *spoke*.
Wouldst thou be *spoken* for to the king? 2 Kings iv. 13.
The original of these signs for communication is found in
viola voce, in spoken language. Haller's Elements of Speech.
SPOKESMAN. *n. f.* [*spoke* and *man*.] One who speaks for
another.
'Tis you that have the reason.
—To do what?
—To be a *spokesman* from madam Silvia: Shakespeare.
He shall be thy *spokesman* unto the people. Ex. iv. 16.
TO SPOILATE. *v. a.* [*spolio*, Lat.] To rob; to plunder. *Dist.*
SPOILATION. *n. f.* [*spoliatio*, French; *spoliatio*, Latin.] The
act of robbery or privation.
An ecclesiastical benefice is sometimes void *de jure & facto*,
and sometimes *de facto*, and not *de jure*; as when a man suf-
fers a *spoliation* by his own act. Ayliffe's Parergon.
SPOONDEE. *n. f.* [*spōndee*, French; *spōndeeus*, Latin.] A foot of
two long syllables.
We lie in the choice of the words the weight of the stone,
and the striving to heave it up the mountain: Homer clogs the
verse with *spōndees*, and leaves the vowels open. Browne.
SPOONDYLE. *n. f.* [*spōndylus*, Fr. *spōndylus*, Latin.]
A vertebra; a joint of the spine.
It hath for the spine or back-bone a cartilaginous substance,
without any *spōndyles*, processes, or protuberances. Brown.
SPONGE. *n. f.* [*spongia*, Latin.] A soft porous substance sup-
ported by some the ridus of animals. It is remarkable for
sucking up water.
Sponges are gathered from the fides of rocks, being as a large
but tough mofs. Bacon.
They opened and washed part of their *sponges*. Sandy.
Great officers are like *sponges*: they suck 'till they are full,
and, when they come once to be squeezed, their very heart's
blood come away. L'Estrange.
TO SPONGE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blot; to wipe away
as with a sponge.
Except between the words of translation and the mind of
Scripture itself there be no addition, very little difference
should not seem an intolerable blemish necessarily to be *sponged*
out. Hooker.
TO SPONGE. *v. n.* To suck in as a sponge; to gain by mean
arts.
The ant lives upon her own honesty; whereas the fly is an
intruder, and a common smell-feast, that *sponges* upon other
people's treasuries. L'Estrange.
Here went the dean, when he's to seek, Swift.
SPONGER. *n. f.* [from *sponge*.] One who hangs for a main-
tenance on others.
A generous rich man, that kept a splendid and open table,
would try which were friends, and which only trencher-flies
and *spongers*. L'Estrange.
SPONGINESS. *n. f.* [from *sponge*.] Softness and fulness of ca-
vities like a sponge.
The lungs are exposed to receive all the droppings from the
brain: a very fit cistern, because of their *sponginess*. Harvey.
SPONGIOUS. *adj.* [*spongiosus*, French; from *sponge*.] Full of
small cavities like a sponge.
All thick bones are hollow or *spongious*, and contain an
oleaginous substance in little vesicles, which by the heat of the
body is exhaled through these bones to supply their fibres. Chey.
SPO'NGY. *adj.* [from *sponge*.]
1. Soft and full of small interstitial holes.
The lungs are the most *spongy* part of the body, and there-
fore able to contract and dilate itself. Bacon's Nat. History.
A *spongy* excrecence groweth upon the roots of the later-
tree, and upon cedar, very white, light, and friable, called
agarick. Bacon's Natural History.
The body of the tree being very *spongy* within, though hard
without, they easily contrive into canoes. More.
Into earth's *spongy* veins the ocean sinks,
Those rivers to replenish which he drinks. Denham.
Return, unhappy wain!
The *spongy* clouds are fill'd with gath'ring rain. Dryden.
Her bones are all very *spongy*, and more remarkably those of
a wild bird, which flies much, and long together. Grew.
2. Wet; drenched; soaked; full like a sponge.
When their drenched natures lie as in a death,
What cannot you and I perform upon
Th' unguarded Duncan? What not put upon
His *spongy* officers, who shall bear the guilt. Shakespeare.
SPO'NK. *n. f.* A word in Edinburgh which denotes a match,
or any thing dipt in fulphur that takes fire: as, any *sponks* will
ye buy? Touchwood.
SPO'NSAL. *adj.* [*sponsalis*, Latin.] Relating to marriage.
SPO'NSION. *n. f.* [*sponsio*, Latin.] The act of becoming surety
for another.

SPO

SPO'NSOR. *n. f.* [Latin.] A surety; one who makes a promise
or gives security for another.
In the baptism of a male there ought to be two males and
one woman, and in the baptism of a female child two women
and one man; and these are called *sponsors* or sureties for their
education in the true Christian faith. Ayliffe's Parergon.
The *sponsor* ought to be of the same station with the person
to whom he becomes surety. Brown.
SPO'NTANEITY. *n. f.* [*spontaneitas*, school Lat. *spontaneus*, Fr.
from *spontaneus*.] Voluntaryness; willingness; accord un-
compelled.
Necessity and *spontaneity* may sometimes meet together, for
may *spontaneity* and liberty; but real necessity and true liberty
can never.
Strict necessity they simple call;
It so binds the will, that things foreknown
By *spontaneity* not choice are done. Dryden.
SPO'NTANEOUS. *adj.* [*spontaneus*, French; from *sponte*, Lat.]
Voluntary; not compelled; acting without compulsion or re-
straint; acting of itself; acting of its own accord.
Many analogical motions in animals, though I cannot call
them voluntary, yet I see them *spontaneous*; I have reason to
conclude, that these are not simply mechanical. Halst.
They now came forth
Spontaneous; for within them spirit mov'd
Attendant on their lord. Milton.
While John for nine-pins does declare,
And Roger loves to pitch the bar,
Both legs and arms *spontaneous* move,
Which was the thing I meant to prove. Prior.
Begin with sense, of ev'ry art the soul,
Parts answering parts shall slide into a whole;
Spontaneous beauties all around advance,
Start ev'n from difficulty, strike from chance,
Nature shall join you, time shall make it grow. Pope.
SPO'NTANEOUSLY. *adv.* [from *spontaneous*.] Voluntarily; of
its own accord.
This would be as impossible as that the lead of an edifice
should naturally and *spontaneously* mount up to the roof, while
lighter materials employ themselves beneath it. Boyle.
When turns *spontaneously* acid, and the curd into cheese
as hard as a stone. Arbuthnot on Dissem.
SPO'NTANEOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *spontaneous*.] Voluntaryness;
freedom of will; accord unforced.
The sagacities and instincts of brutes, the *spontaneousness* of
many of their animal motions, are not explicable without
supposing some active determinate power connexed to and in-
herent in their spirits, of a higher extraction than the bare
natural modification of matter. Hale's Origin of Animad.
SPOON. *n. f.* [*spoon*, German; *spoon*, Dutch.] A small piece of
cane or reed, with a knot at each end; or a piece of wood
turned in that form to wind yarn upon; a quill.
TO SPOON. *v. n.* [Probably from *spoon*, or *spoon*, as a ship
driven with violence spumes, or raises a foam.]
When virtue *spoons* before a prosperous gale,
My heaving wishes help to fill the sail. Dryden.
SPOON. *n. f.* [*spoon*, Dutch; *spoon*, Danish; *spoon*, Islandic.]
A concave vessel with a handle, used in eating liquids.
Wouldst thou drown thyself,
Put but a little water in a *spoon*,
And it shall be as all the ocean, Shakespeare. King John.
Enough to fuddle such a villain up,
This is a devil, and no monster: I will leave him; I have
no long *spoon*. Shakespeare. Timon.
Or o'er cold coffee trifle with the *spoon*,
Count the slow clock, and dine exact at noon. Pope.
SPOONBILL. *n. f.* [*spoon* and *bill*.] A bird.
The shoveller, or *spoonbill*; the former name the more pro-
per, the end of the bill being broad like a shovel; but not
concave like a spoon, but perfectly flat. Grew's An. Zoon.
Ducks and geese have such long broad bills to quaffer in
water and mud; to which we may reckon the bill of the
spoonbill. Derham's Physico-Theology.
SPOONFUL. *n. f.* [*spoon* and *full*.]
1. As much as is generally taken at once in a spoon. A medical
spoonful is half an ounce.
Prescribe him, before he do use the receipt, that he take
such a pill, or a *spoonful* of liquor.
2. Any small quantity of liquid.
Surely the choice and measure of the materials of which
the whole body is composed, and what we take daily by
pounds, is at least as of much importance as of what we take
feldom, and only by grains and *spoonfuls*. Arbuthnot.
SPOONMEAT. *n. f.* [*spoon* and *meat*.] Liquid food; nourish-
ment taken with a spoon.
We prescribed a slender diet, allowing only *spoonmeats*. Wile.
Wretched
Are mortals born to sleep their lives away
Go back to what thy infancy began.
Eat pap and *spoonmeat*: for thy gurgles cry,
Be fullen, and refuse the lullaby. Dryden's Pers.
Dist

SPO

Diet most upon *spoonmeat*, as veal, or cock-broths. Hare.
SPOONWORT, or *Scurvygrass*. *n. f.* See SCURVYGRASS.
TO SPOON. *v. n.* In sea language, is when a ship being un-
der sail in a storm cannot bear it, but is obliged to put right
before the wind. Bailey.
SPO'RADICAL. *adj.* [*sporadicus*, French.]
A *sporadic* disease is an endemial disease, what in a parti-
cular season afflicts but few people. Arbuthnot.
SP'ORT. *n. f.* [*spott*, a make-game, Islandic.]
1. Play; diversion; game; frolic and tumultuous merriment.
Her *spotts* were such as carried riches of knowledge upon
the stream of delight. Sidney.
As flies to wanton boys, are we to th' gods;
They kill us for their sport. Shakespeare's K. Lear.
If I suspect without cause, why then make sport at me; then
let me be your jest. Shakespeare.
When their hearts were merry, they said, call for Samson,
that he may make us sport; and they called for him, and he
made them sport. Judges xvi. 25.
As a mail-man who casteth fire-brands, arrows and death;
so is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and faith, am not
I in sport? Prov. xxvi. 19.
The discourse of fools is itkome, and their sport is in the
wantonness of sin. Ecclesi. xxvii. 13.
2. Mock; contemptuous mirth.
They had his merriments in derision and made a sport of
his prophesies. 1 Esdr. i. 51.
To make sport with his word, and to endeavour to render
it ridiculous, by turning that holy book into rallery, is a di-
rect affront to God. Tillotson's Sermons.
3. That with which one plays.
Each on his rock transfix'd, the sport and prey
Of wrecking whirlwinds. Milton.
Commit not thy prophetic mind
To flitting leaves, the sport of every wind,
Lest they disperse in air. Dryden.
4. Play; idle gingle.
An author who should introduce such a sport of words upon
our stage, would meet with small applause. Browne.
5. Diversion of the field, as of fowling, hunting, fishing.
Now for our mountain sport, up to yon hill,
Your legs are young. Shakespeare's Cymbeline.
The king, who was excessively affected to hunting, and
the sports of the field, had a great desire to make a great park
for red as well as fallow deer, between Richmond and Hamp-
ton court. Clarendon.
TO SPORT. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To divert; to make merry.
The poor man wept and bled, cried and prayed, while they
sport themselves in his pain, and delighted in his prayers as
the argument of their victory. Sidney.
Away with him, and let her sport herself
With that she's big with. Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.
Against whom do ye sport yourselves against whom make
ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? Jac. lvii. 4.
What pretty stories these are for a man of his seriousness to
sport himself withal!
Let such writers go on at their dearest peril, and sport them-
selves in their own deceivings. Watts.
2. To represent by any kind of play.
Now sporting on thy lyre the love of youth,
Now virtuous age and venerable truth;
Expressing justly Sappho's wanton art
Of odes, and Pindar's more majestic part. Dryden.
TO SPORT. *v. n.*
1. To play; to incline to games; to wanton.
They sporting with quick glance,
Shew to the sun their wa'd coats dropt with gold. Milton.
Larissa, as she sported at this play, was drowned in the ri-
ver Peneus. Browne's Nats on the Odyssey.
2. To trifle.
If any man turn religion into rallery, by bold jests, he ren-
ders himself ridiculous, because he sports with his own life. Till.
SPORTFUL. *adj.* [*sport* and *full*.] Merry; frolic; wanton;
ludicrous; done in jest.
How with a sportful malice it was follow'd,
May rather pluck on laughter than revenge. Shakespeare.
His highness, even in such a flight and sportful damage, had
a noble sense of just dealing. Wotton.
Down he alights among the sportful herd
Of those four-footed kinds. Milton.
Behold your own Alcibiades, while he said,
He drew his glittering helmet from his head,
In which the youth to sportful arms he led. Dryden.
They are no sportful productions of the soil, but did once
belong to real and living fishes; seeing each of them doth ex-
actly resemble some other shell on the sea shore. Bentley.
A catalogue of this may be had in Albericus Gentilis; which,
because it is too sportful, I forbear to mention. Baker.
SPORTIVELY. *adv.* [from *sportful*.] Wantonly; merrily.
SPORTIVELINESS. *n. f.* [from *sportful*.] Wantonness; play;
merriment; frolic.

SPO

The otter got out of the river, and inweeded himself so, as
the ladies lost the further marking of his sportfulness. Sidney.
SPO'RTIVE. *adj.* [from *sport*.] Gay; merry; frolic; wan-
ton; playful; ludicrous.
I am not in a sportive humour now;
Tell me, and dally not, where is the money? Shakespeare.
Is it I?
That drive thee from the sportive court, where thou
Wast shot at with fair eyes, to be the mark
Of smoky mullets? Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.
While thus the constant pair alternate said,
Joyful above them and around them play'd
Angels and sportive loves, a numerous crowd,
Smiling they clapt their wings, and low they bow'd. Prior.
We must not hope wholly to change their original ten-
pers, nor make the gay, pensive and grave; nor the melan-
choly, sportive, without spoiling them. Locke.
No wonder savages or subjects slain,
Were equal crimes in a despotick reign;
Both doom'd alike for sportive tyrants bled,
But subjects starv'd while savages were fed. Pope.
SPO'RTIVENESS. *n. f.* [from *sportive*.] Gaity; play; wantonness.
Shall I conclude her to be simple, that has her time to be-
gin, or refuse sportiveness as freely as I have? Walton's Angler.
SPO'RTSMAN. *n. f.* [*spot* and *man*.] One who pursues the
recreations of the field.
Manlius lets us know the pagan hunters had Meleager for
their patron, as the Christians have their St. Hubert: he speaks
of the constellation which makes a good sportsman. Addison.
SPO'RTULE. *n. f.* [*sportule*, French; *sportula*, Latin.] An alms;
a dole.
The bishops, who consecrated the ground, had a spill or
sportule from the credulous laity. Ayliffe's Parergon.
SPO'IT. *n. f.* [*spotte*, Danish; *spotte*, Flemish.]
1. A blot; a mark made by discoloration.
This three years day, these eyes, though clear
To outward view of blemish or of spot,
Bereft of sight, their seeing have forgot. Milton.
A long series of ancestors shews the native lustre with advan-
tage; but if he any way degenerate from his line, the least
spot is visible on ermine. Dryden.
2. A taint; a disgrace; a reproach.
3. I know not well the meaning of *spot* in this place, unless it
be a scandalous woman; a disgrace to her sex.
Let him take thee,
And hoist thee up to the shouting plebeians;
Follow his chariot, like the greatest spot
Of all thy sex. Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra.
4. A small extent of place.
That spot to which I point is paradise,
Adam's abode, those lofty shades his bow'r. Milton.
He, who with Plato, shall place beatitude in the knowledge
of God, will have his thoughts raised to other contemplations
than those who looked not beyond this spot of earth, and those
perishing things in it. Locke.
About one of these breathing passages is a spot of myrtle,
that flourish within the steam of these vapours. Addison.
Abdallah converted the whole mountain into a kind of gar-
den, and covered every part of it with plantations or spots of
flowers. The Guardian.
He that could make two ears of corn grow upon a spot of
ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of
mankind than the whole race of politicians. Gulliver.
5. Any particular place.
I would be busy in the world, and learn,
Not like a coarse and useless dunghill weed,
Fix'd to one spot, and rot just as I grow. Otway.
As in this grove I took my last farewell,
As on this very spot of earth I fell,
So the my prey becomes ev'n here. Dryden.
Here Adrian fell: upon that fatal spot
Our brother died. Granville.
6. Upon the spot. Immediately; without changing place.
[Sur le champ.]
The lion did not chop him up immediately upon the spot;
and yet he was resolved he should not escape. L'Estrange.
It was determined upon the spot, according as the oratory
on either side prevailed. Swift.
TO SPOT. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To mark with discolorations; to maculate.
They are polluted off' rings, more abhor'd
Than spotted livers in the sacrifice. Shakespeare.
Have you not seen a handkerchief,
Spotted with strawberries in your wife's hand? Shakespeare
But serpents now more amity maintain;
From spotted skins the leopard does refrain:
No weaker lion's by a stronger slain.
I counted the patches on both sides, and found the tory
patches to be about twenty stronger than the whig; but next
morning the whole puppet-show was filled with faces spotted
after the whiggish manner. Addison's Spectator.